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# Monitor and Troubleshoot Across Cloud and Hybrid IT to Minimize Alert Storms

OBS1338C

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Product Manager | Splunk

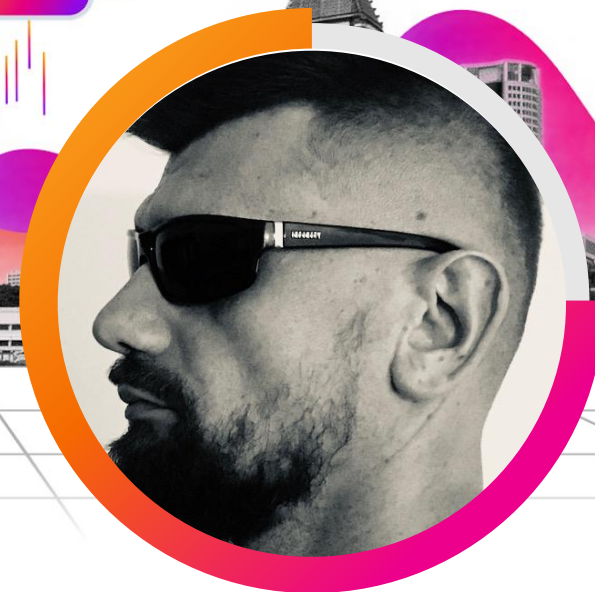


splunk> .conf22



**Aaron Kirk**

Principal PM | Splunk

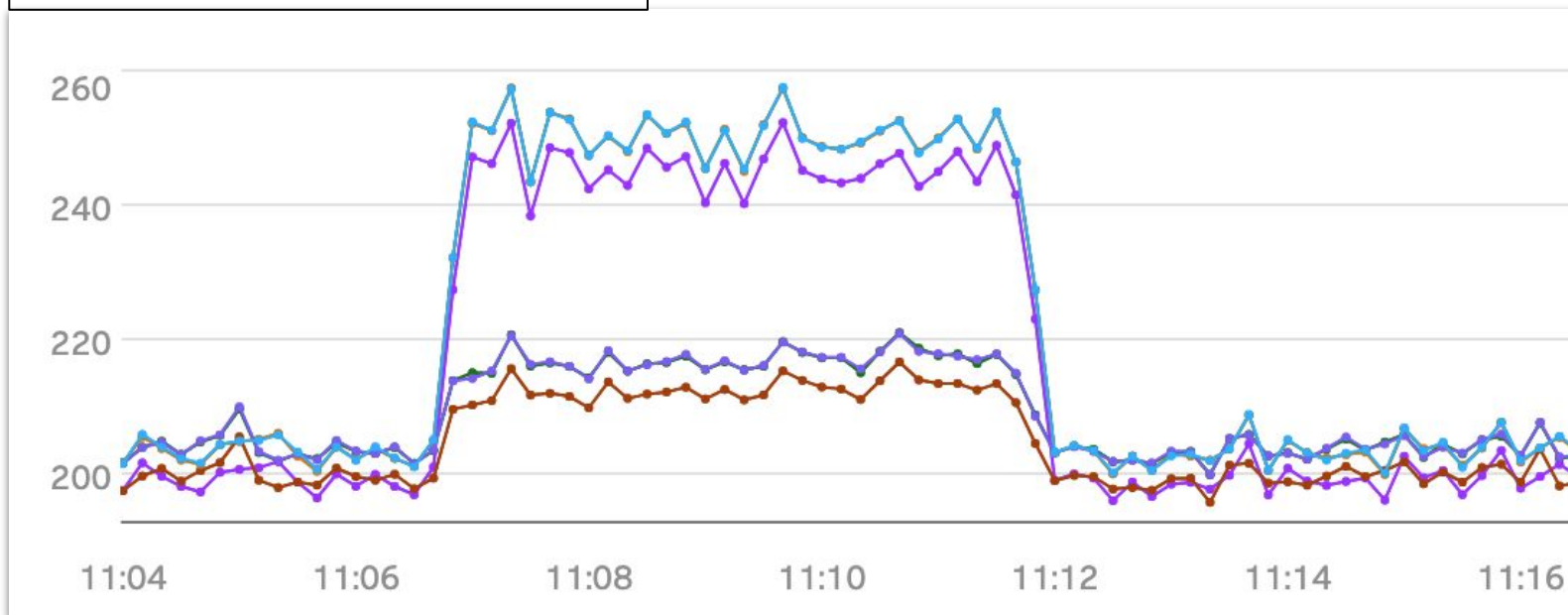


**Yaroslav Tytar**

PM | Splunk

# 4 Unique Metric Time Series (MTS)

Metric Name: transaction\_latency

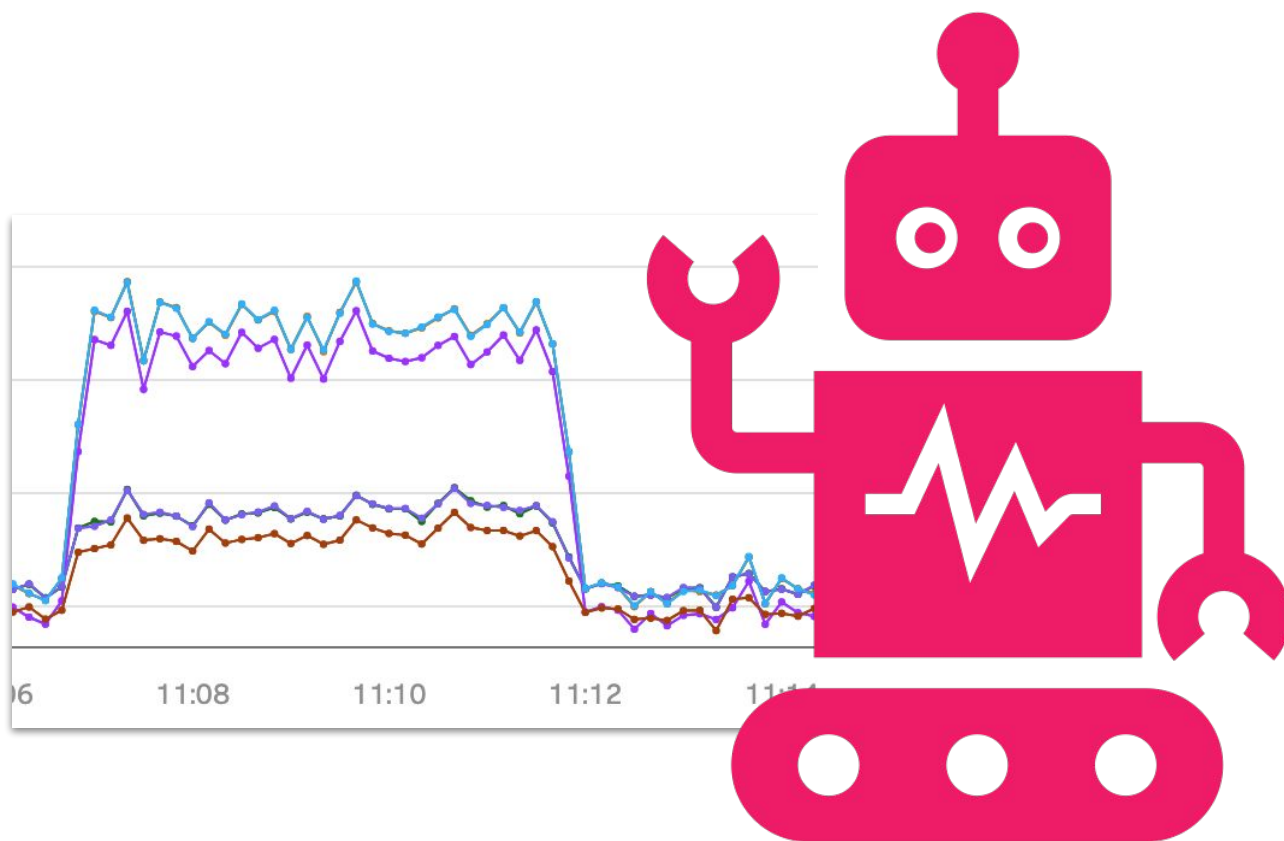


```
{  
  "customer_name": "Sleeping Beans",  
  "datacenter": "The Moon"  
}
```

```
{  
  "customer_name": "Sleeping Beans",  
  "datacenter": "The Earth"  
}
```

# What is a Detector?

Your personal robot to assist with Observability



- Review data as it is received in the Splunk® Observability Cloud
- Decide when to alert using simple static thresholds or intelligent analytics
- Connects to outbound integration to send notifications or kickstart automation
- Super speedy!

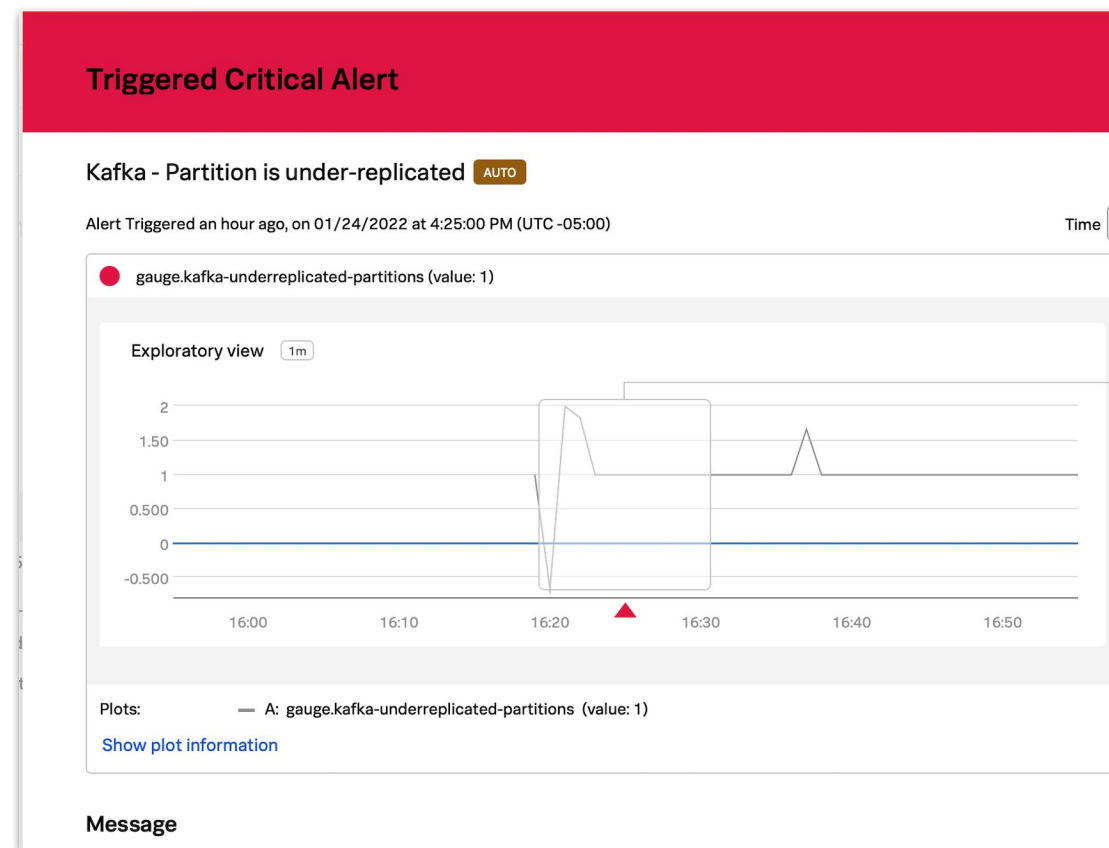
# End-to-End Workflow

1. Getting Data In (GDI)
2. Out-of-the-box Dashboards and Detectors (AutoDetect)
3. Custom Dashboards and Detectors

... Detectors constantly evaluating new data...



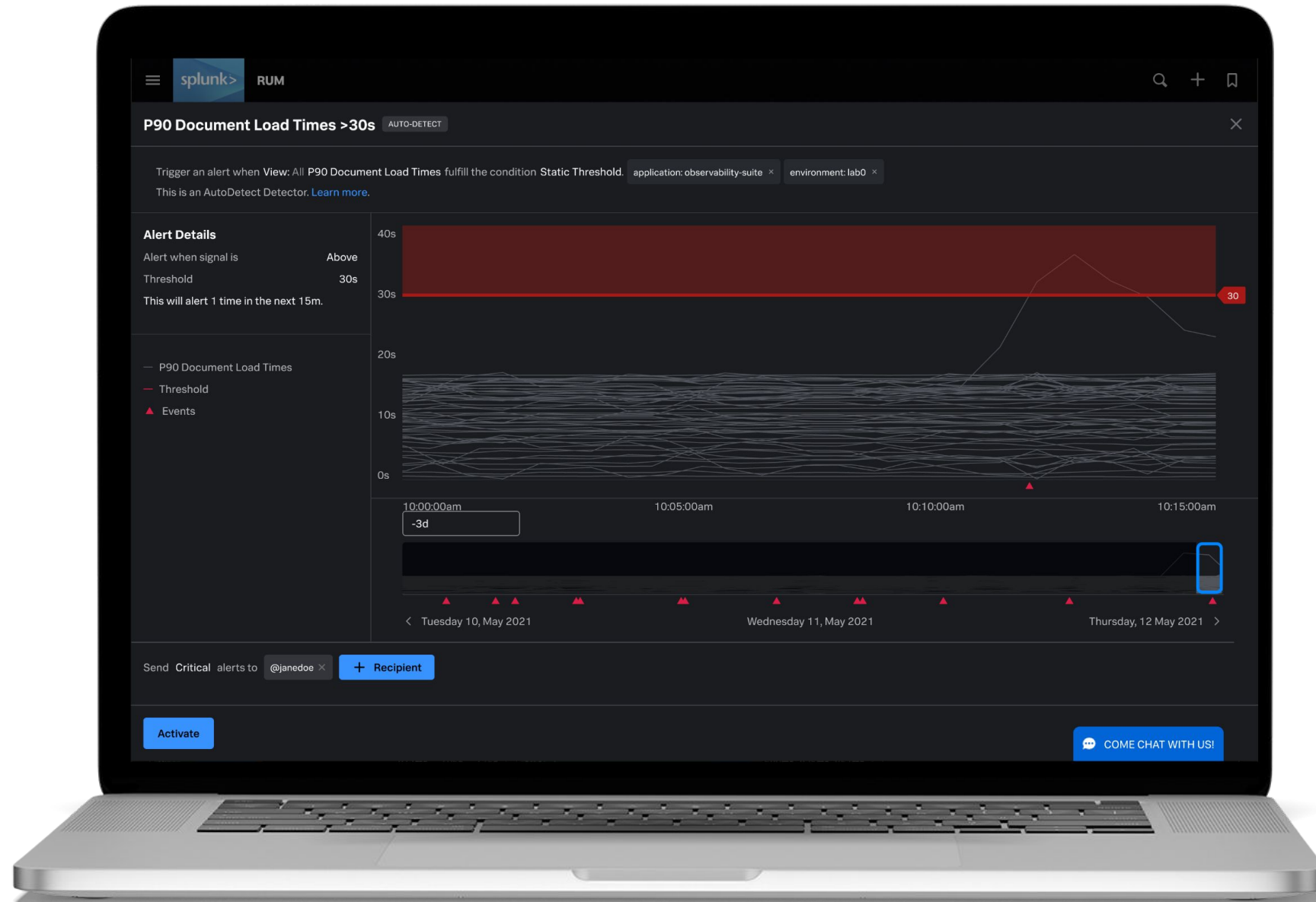
4. Alerts on Dashboards
5. Integrations - notifications and webhooks
6. Clearing Alerts



# AutoDetect

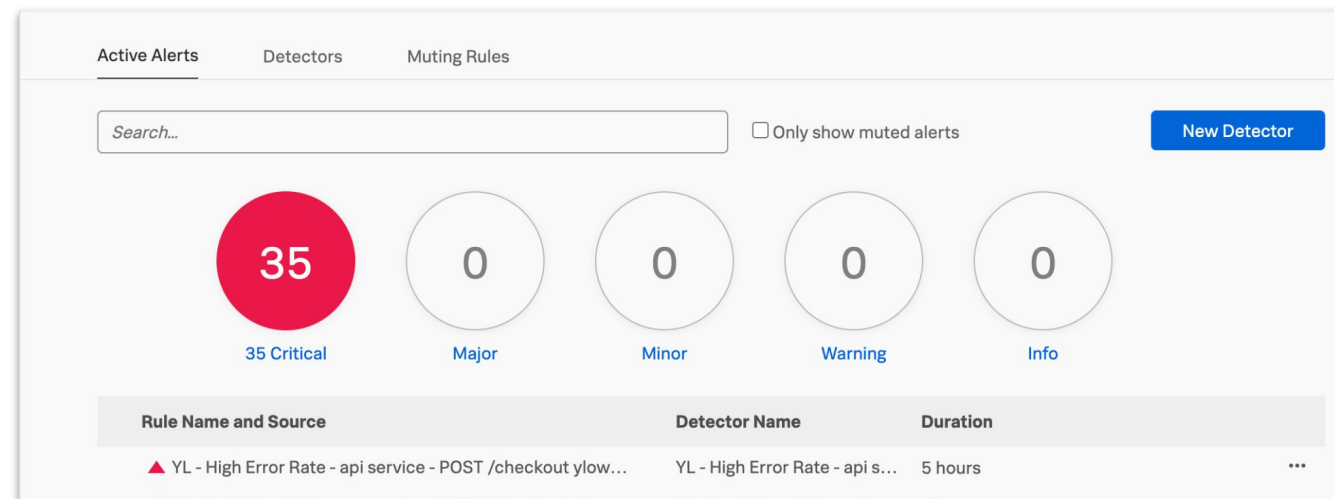
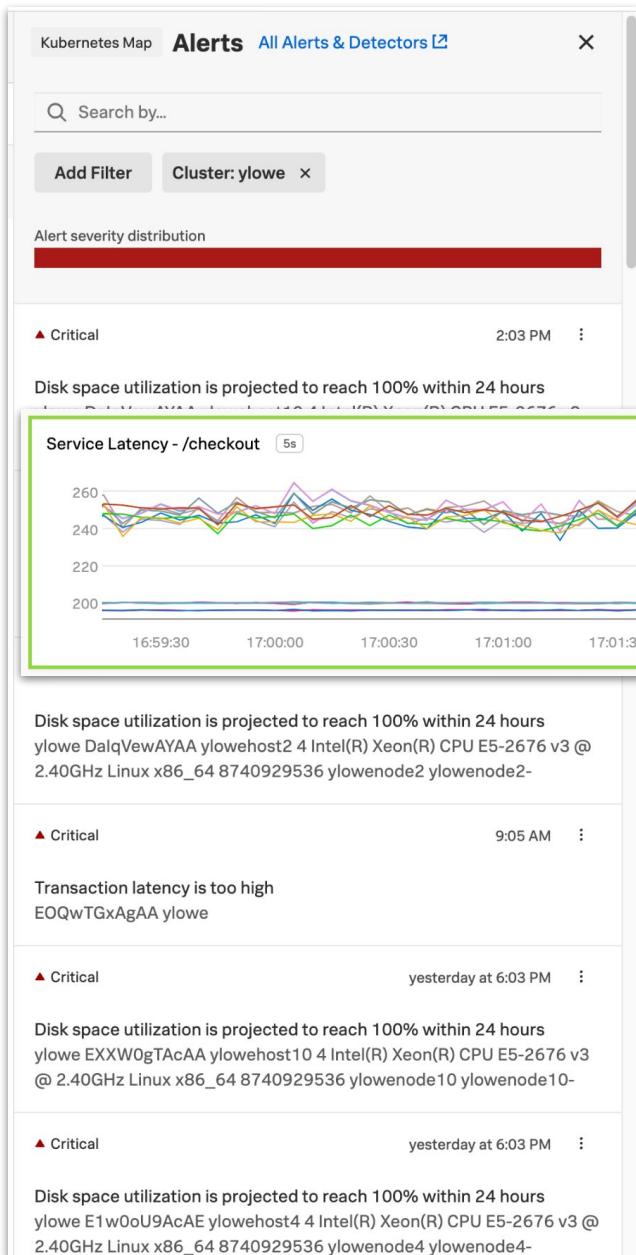
Simplified onboarding  
with out-of-the-box  
alerting

- **Faster TTV with OOTB problem detection** for critical components
- Automatically discover anomalies in your infrastructure
- Quickly identify infrastructure state with intuitive alert integration for **faster MTTR**



# Alerts in Observability

- View, search, and filter all alerts in a dedicated page
- Show related alerts in the alert sidebar
- Connect alerts to dashboards for simple in-context troubleshooting



# Outbound Integrations

Connecting Observability to external services

Splunk On-Call

Slack

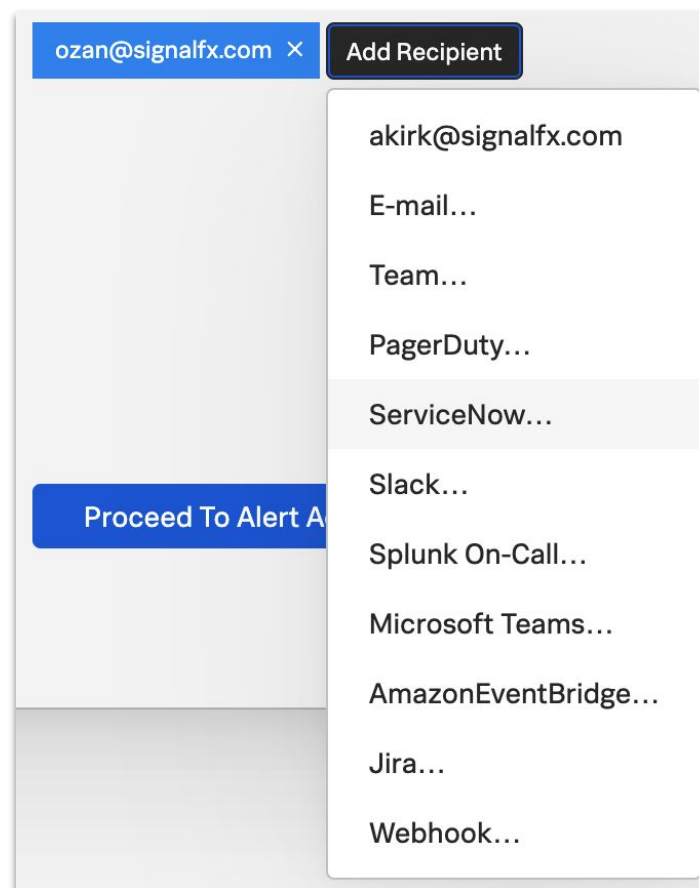
ServiceNow

PagerDuty

Jira

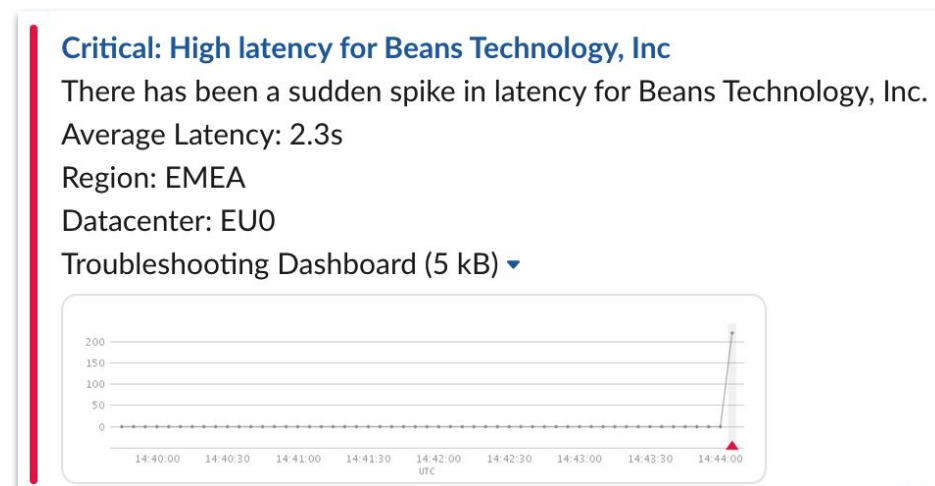
Custom Webhook

+ More



Customize the integration to pass vital context into downstream tools

Customizing the alert message and title



# Detectors Across Observability

Infrastructure Monitoring and Custom Metrics

Get exactly the right signal

- select data
- define formulas
- aggregate data
- transform signals

Configure alert conditions with static thresholds or select an intelligent analytics-driven algorithm

Select a condition for this

Static Threshold

Heartbeat Check

Resource Running Out

Outlier Detection

Sudden Change

Historical Anomaly

Custom Threshold

Infrastructure or Custom Metrics Alert Rule



Highly customizable rules that operate on any available metrics or events. These rules can detect a wide variety of conditions, and can also handle compound conditions.

# Detectors Across Observability

APM

What signal would you like to alert on?

Signals Options Data Table

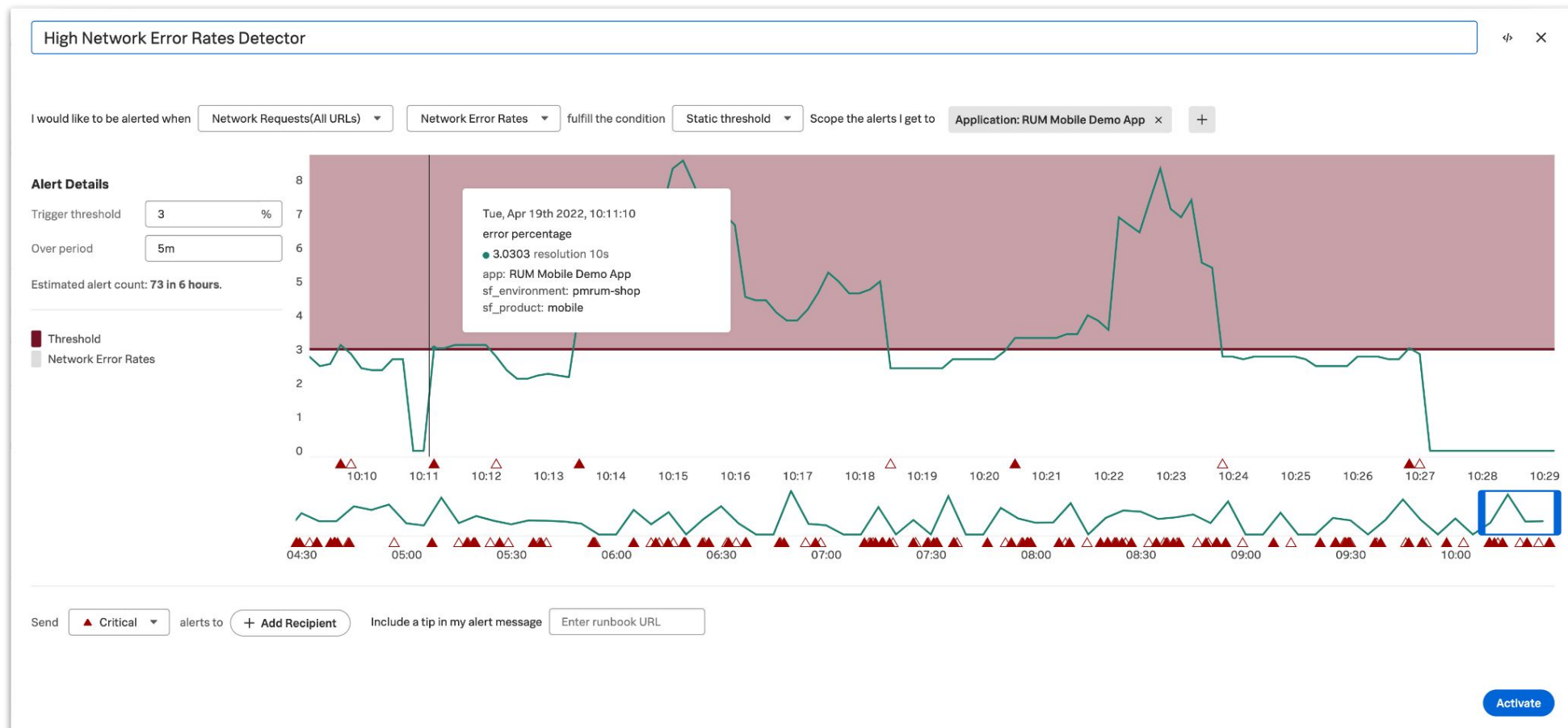
ENVIRONMENT	SIGNAL	SERVICE/ENDPOINT
avargas	Service Error Rate ▾ Service Error Rate Service Latency Workflow Error Rate Workflow Duration	Select service and endpoint(s) <a href="#">Add Filter</a>

[Proceed To Alert Condition](#)

- Monitor error rate and latency for your Services and Business Workflows
- Identify sudden spikes and historical anomalies for a clear indication of changes

# Detectors Across Observability

## Real User Monitoring and Synthetics



# Best Practices for Alerting

Industry standards to ensure you alert on the things that matter

**Understand  
your goal**



**Monitor  
symptoms of  
problems**



**Keep it simple**



**Include  
context & next  
steps**





# Be a Detector

## Jedi Master

Best practices to prevent alert storms and generate the right alerts at the right time.

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.conf22

# The Path to be a Detector Jedi Master

1



## Understand the Force

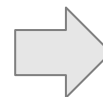
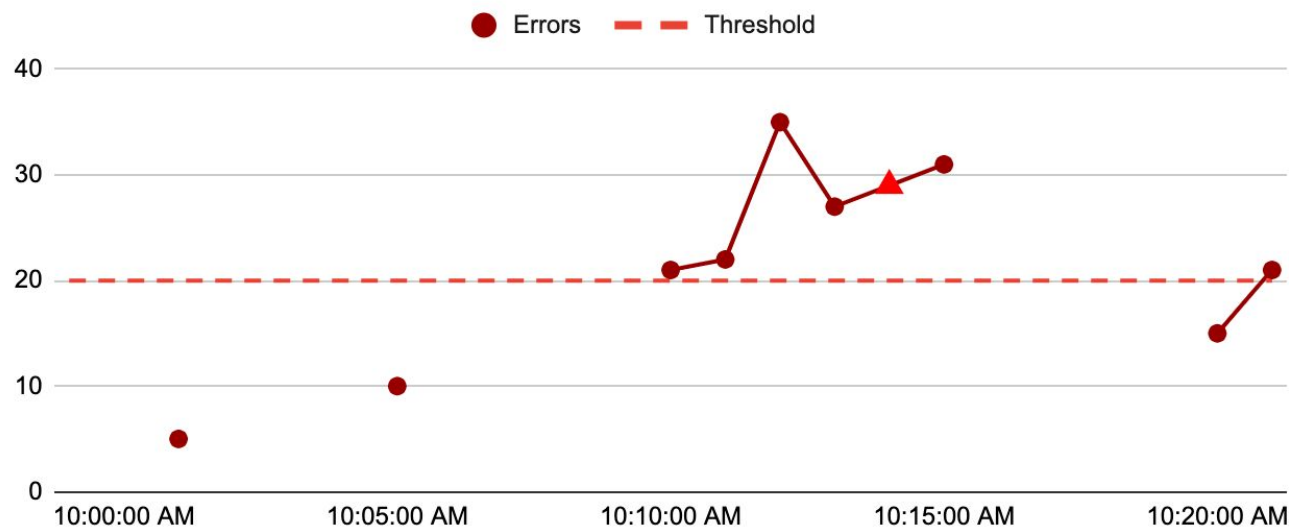
Understand your data  
(Resolution, Periodicity,  
Metadata, Aggregation)

# Alerting with event-driven data

## Best Practices in Data Selection - Aperiodic Data

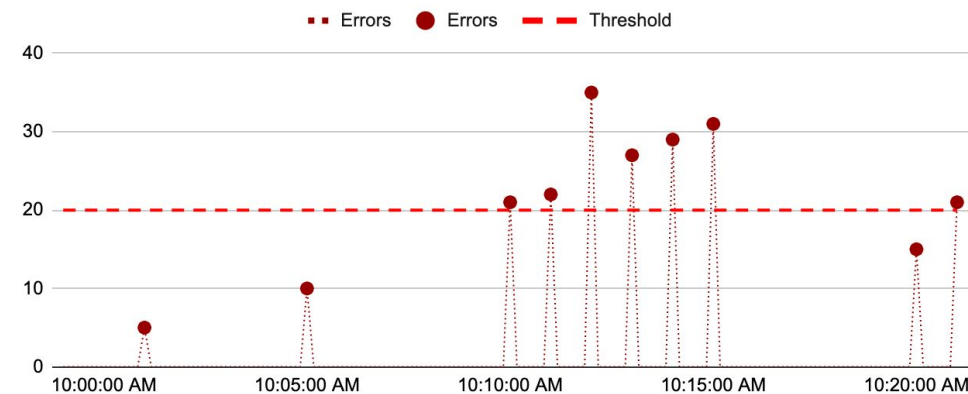
Data is sent on 1 minute interval, but only when errors occur

“Alert me when number of errors is above 20 for 5 min”



High chance alert would never be triggered!!!

Why? Because there is not enough data to determine correct resolution of the reporting metric.



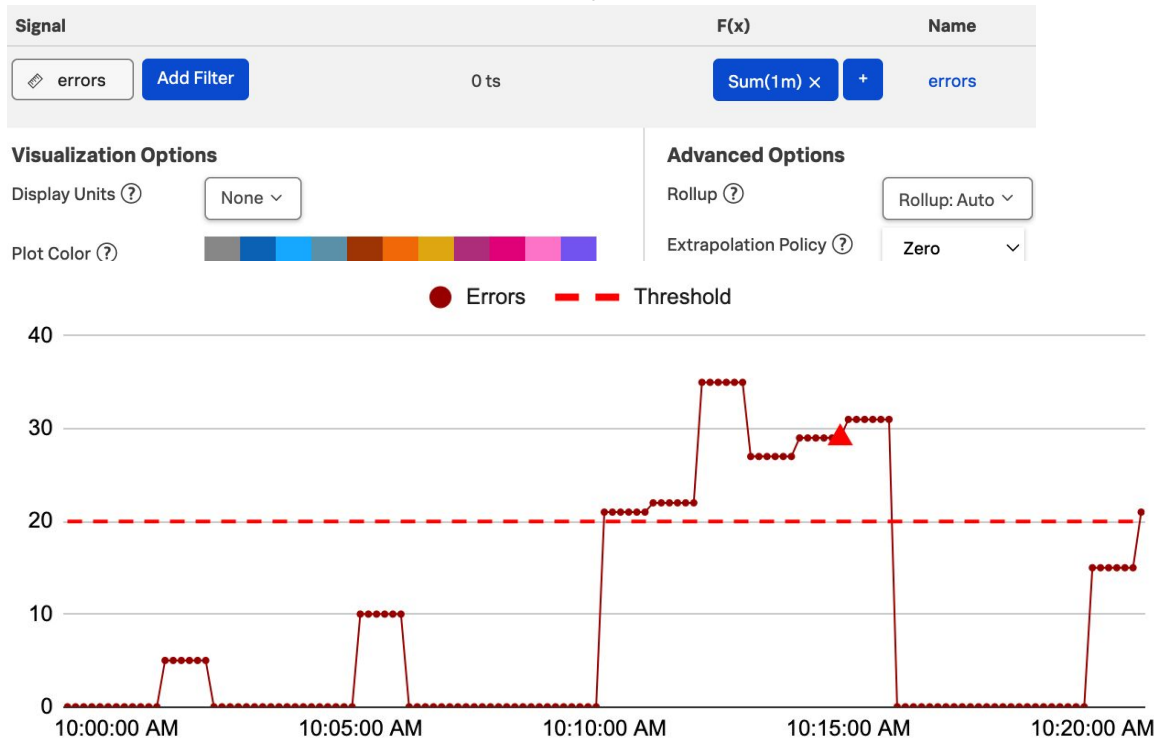
If resolution determined as lower than 1m (e.g. 10s) - there is not enough data points to trigger an alert

# Alerting with event-driven data

## Best Practices in Data Selection - Aperiodic Data

### UI Solution

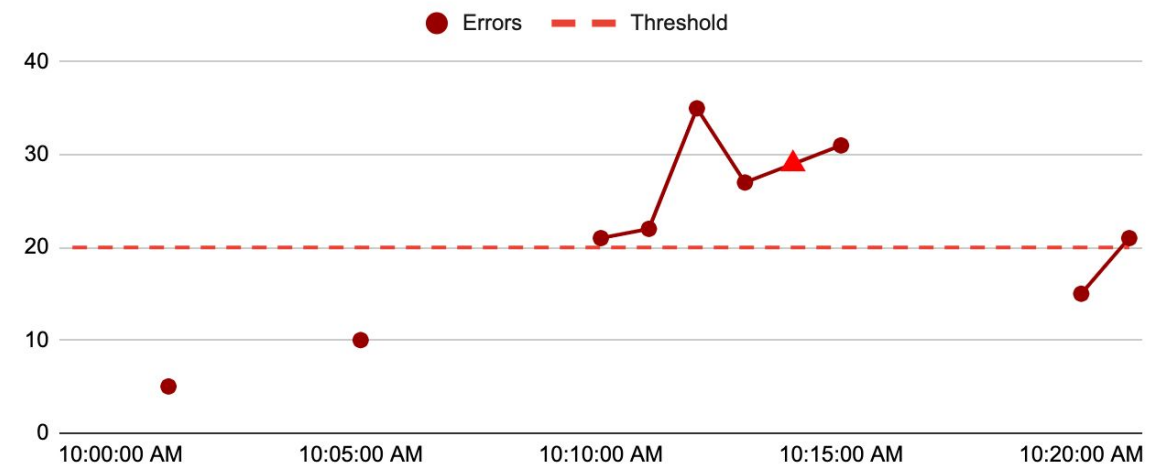
Sum over + Zero extrapolation policy



### SignalFlow Solution

specify resolution in your data block

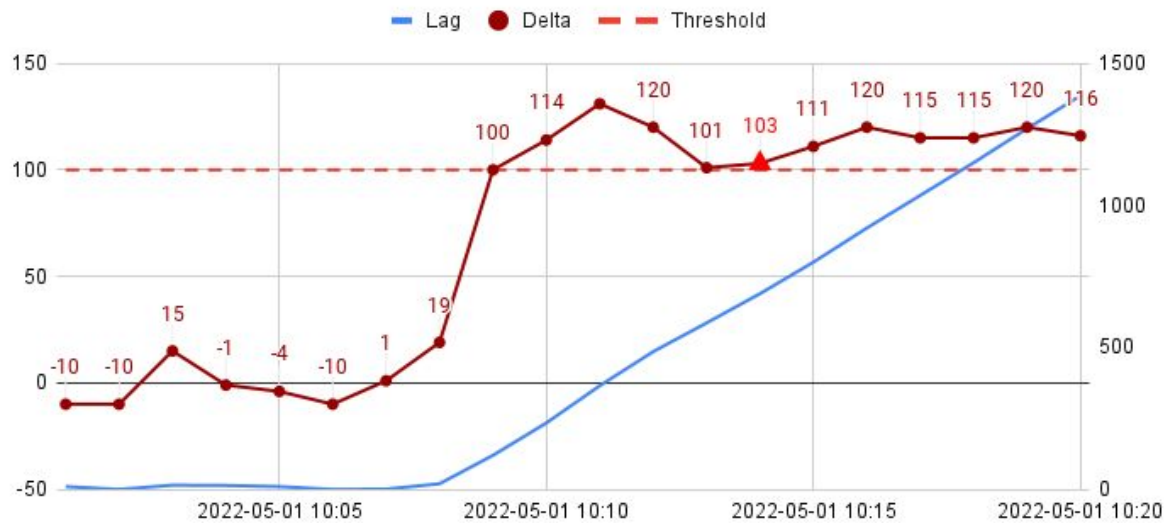
```
A = data('errors', resolution=60000).publish('A')
```



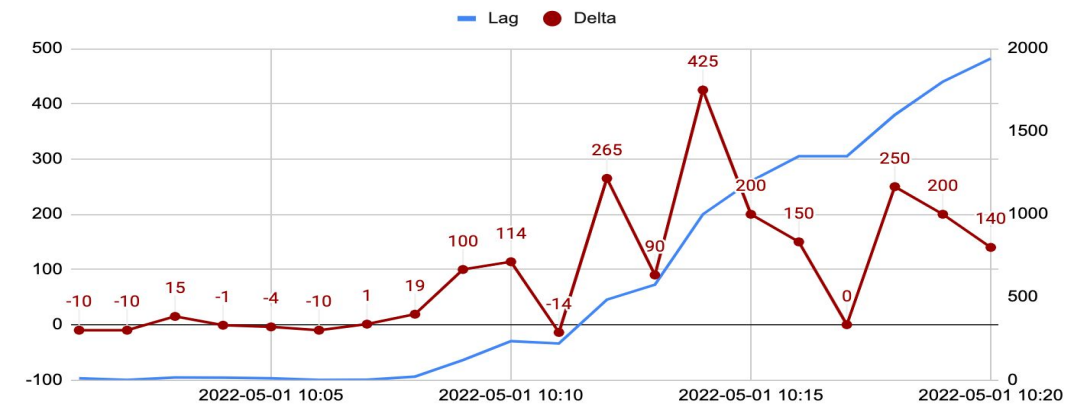
# Challenge the scope

## Best Practices in Data Selection

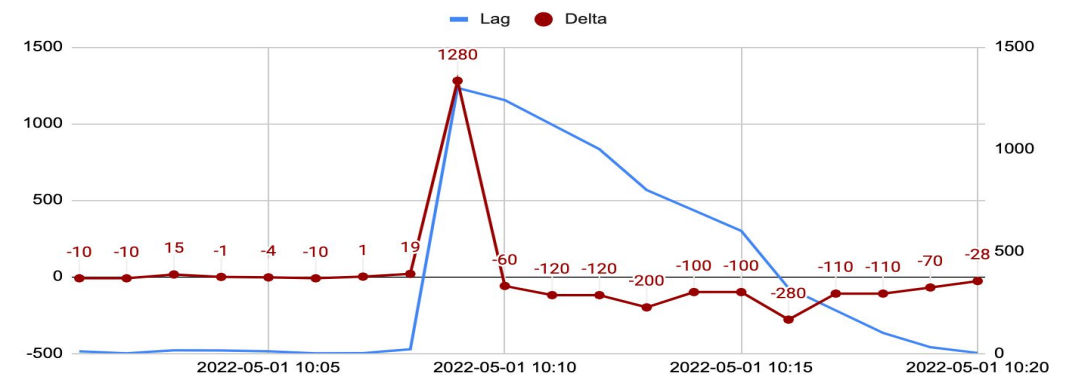
**“Alert me when my kafka consumer lag is growing at least by 100 for 5 minutes”**



Do I need to be alerted when the rate of growth is irregular



Do I need to be alerted on one-time spike



# Aggregate with intention

## Best Practices in Data Selection

Signals			Options		Data Table		
Alert on	Plot	Signal			F(x)	Name	
	 A	 demo.trans.latency 	18 ts	Average Rollup		demo.trans.latency	

Demo metric demo.trans.latency with these dimensions:

demo\_host  
demo\_customer  
demo\_datacenter

Fire an alert when the average latency of all hosts is above <value>

Fire an alert when the average latency for a particular customer is above <value>

# The Path to be a Detector Jedi Master

1

2



## Understand the Force

Understand your data  
(Resolution, Periodicity,  
Metadata, Aggregation)

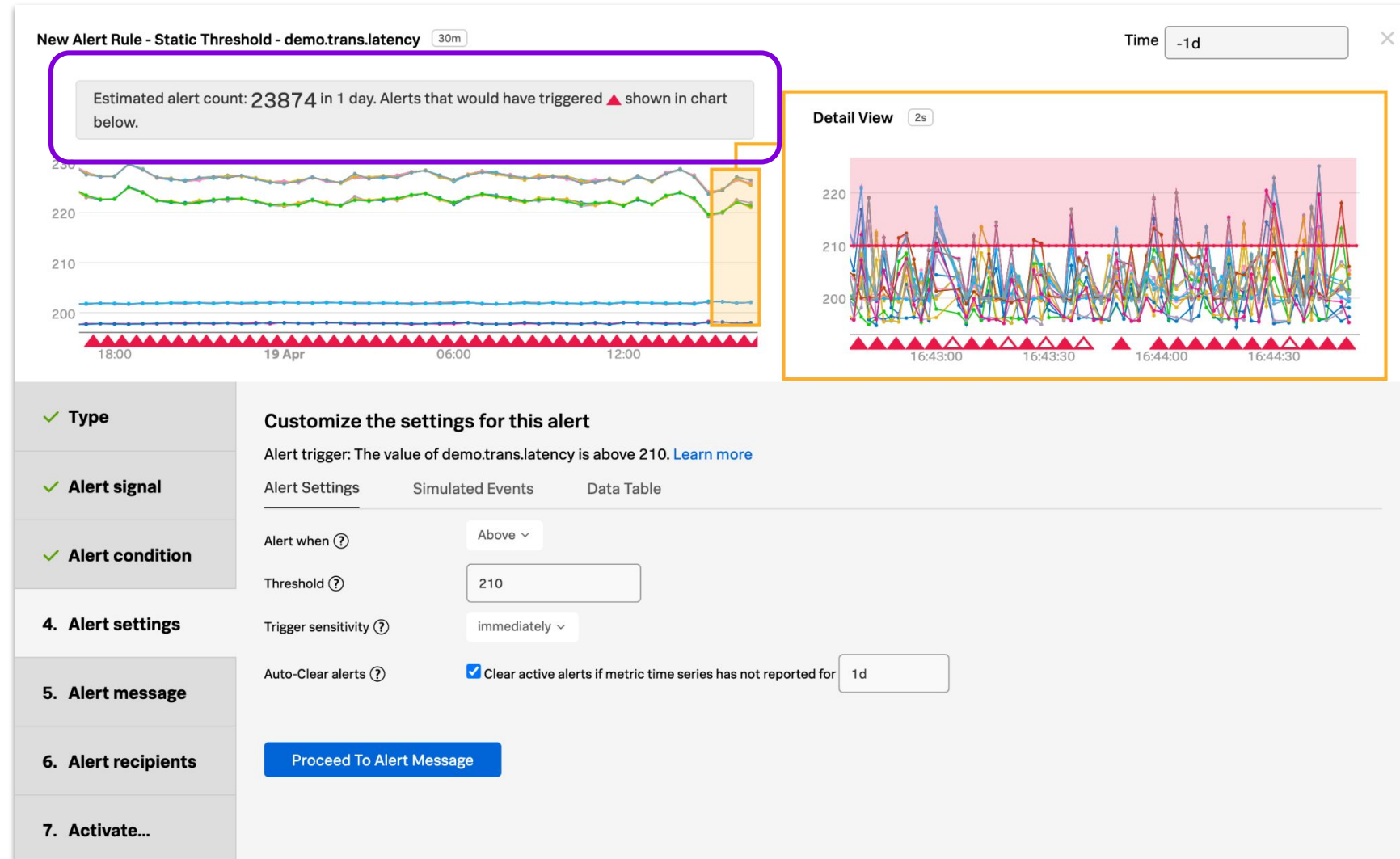
## Use all available tools

Use functions available  
to create the right alerts  
(Rollup, Alert preview,  
trigger sensitivity, off  
conditions)

# Alert Preview

Estimate how many alerts this detector configuration will create based on historical data.

Will update whenever you change the alert settings.

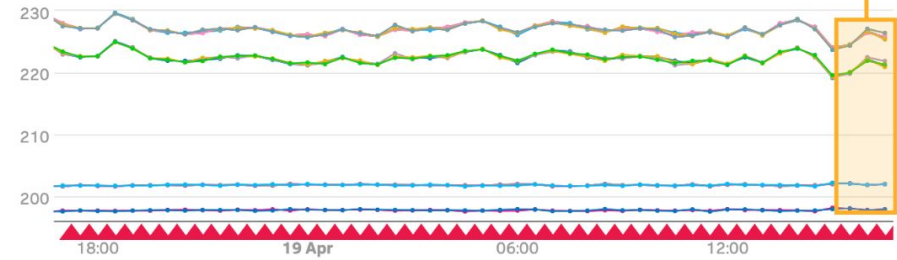


# Trigger Sensitivity or “Lasting”

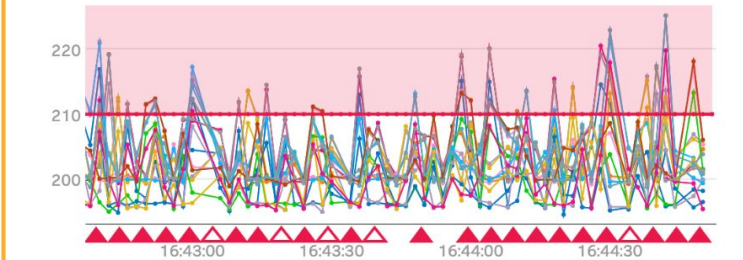
Reduce alert noise using  
‘Trigger Sensitivity’

New Alert Rule - Static Threshold - demo.trans.latency 30m Time -1d

Estimated alert count: 23874 in 1 day. Alerts that would have triggered ▲ shown in chart below.



Detail View 2s



Customize the settings for this alert

Alert trigger: The value of demo.trans.latency is above 210. [Learn more](#)

Alert Settings Simulated Events Data Table

Alert when ? Above ▾

Threshold ? 210

Trigger sensitivity ? immediately ▾

Auto-Clear alerts ? ☒ Clear active alerts if metric time series has not reported for 1d

Proceed To Alert Message

4. Alert settings

5. Alert message

6. Alert recipients

7. Activate...

# Trigger Sensitivity or “Lasting”

Immediately - Fire alert when signal crosses the threshold

Duration - Fire alert when signal stays above threshold for <time>

Percent of duration - Fire alert when signal stays above threshold for <percent> of <time>

The image shows two screenshots of the Splunk alert configuration interface. The top screenshot shows the 'Trigger sensitivity' dropdown menu open, with options: 'Immediately', 'Duration', and 'Percent of duration'. A blue button labeled 'Proceed To Alert Message' is visible below the dropdown. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Trigger sensitivity' set to 'percent of duration'. Below this, there are two input fields: 'Percent of duration' with a value of '100%' and a time field with a value of '1h, 4m, etc...'. Both input fields have a help icon (?) next to them.

Trigger sensitivity (?) immediately ▾

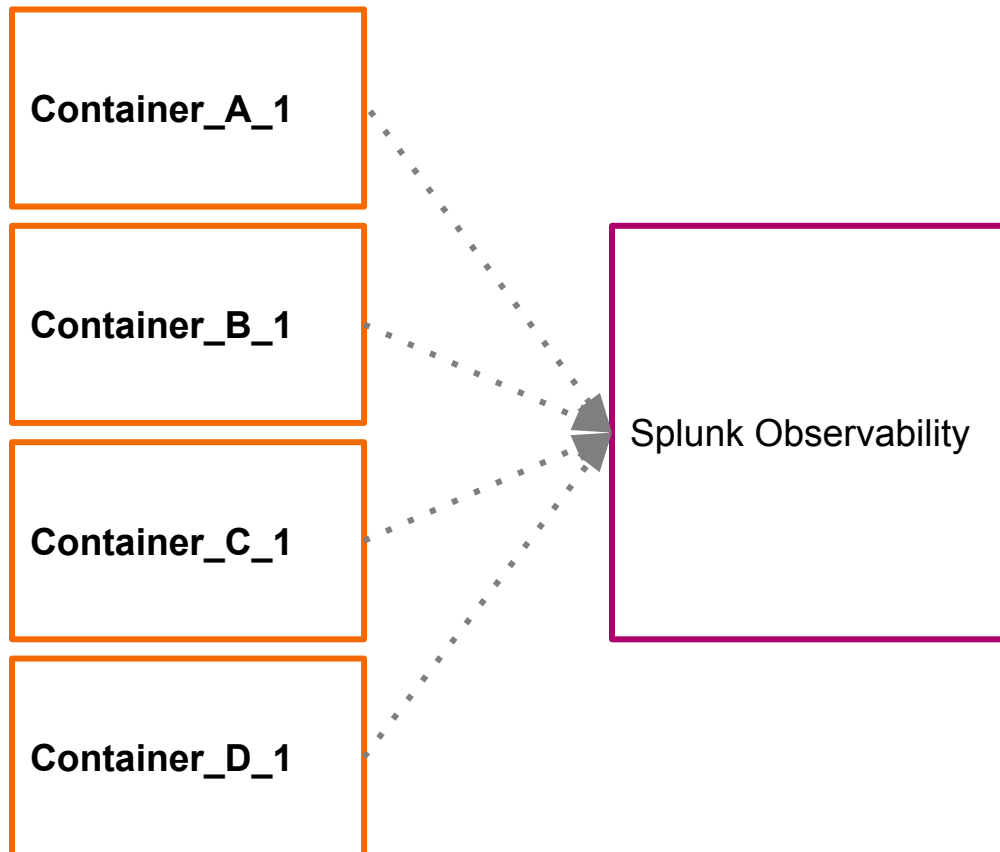
Auto-Clear alerts (?) Immediately Duration Percent of duration

Proceed To Alert Message

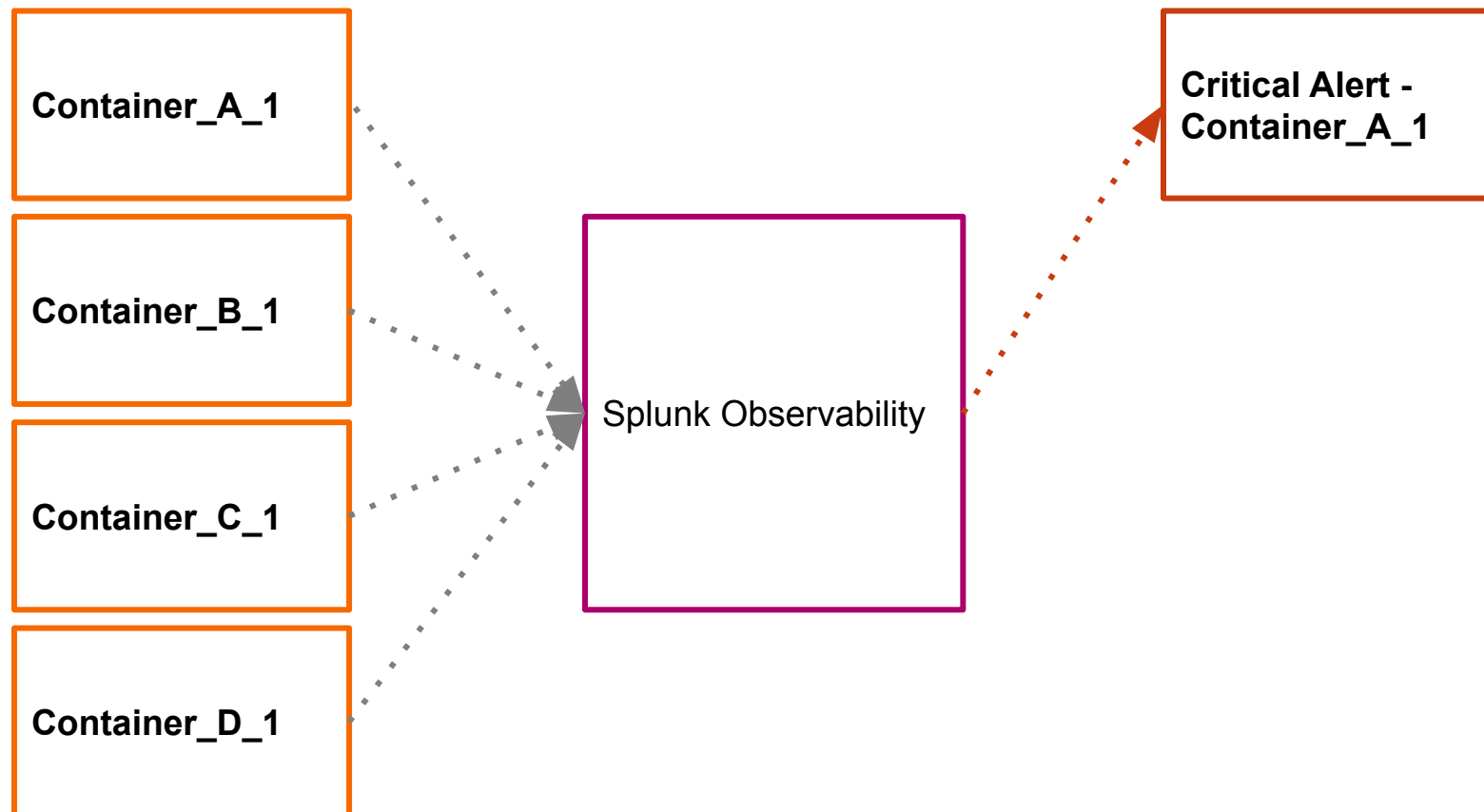
Trigger sensitivity (?) percent of duration ▾

Percent of duration (?) 100% of 1h, 4m, etc...

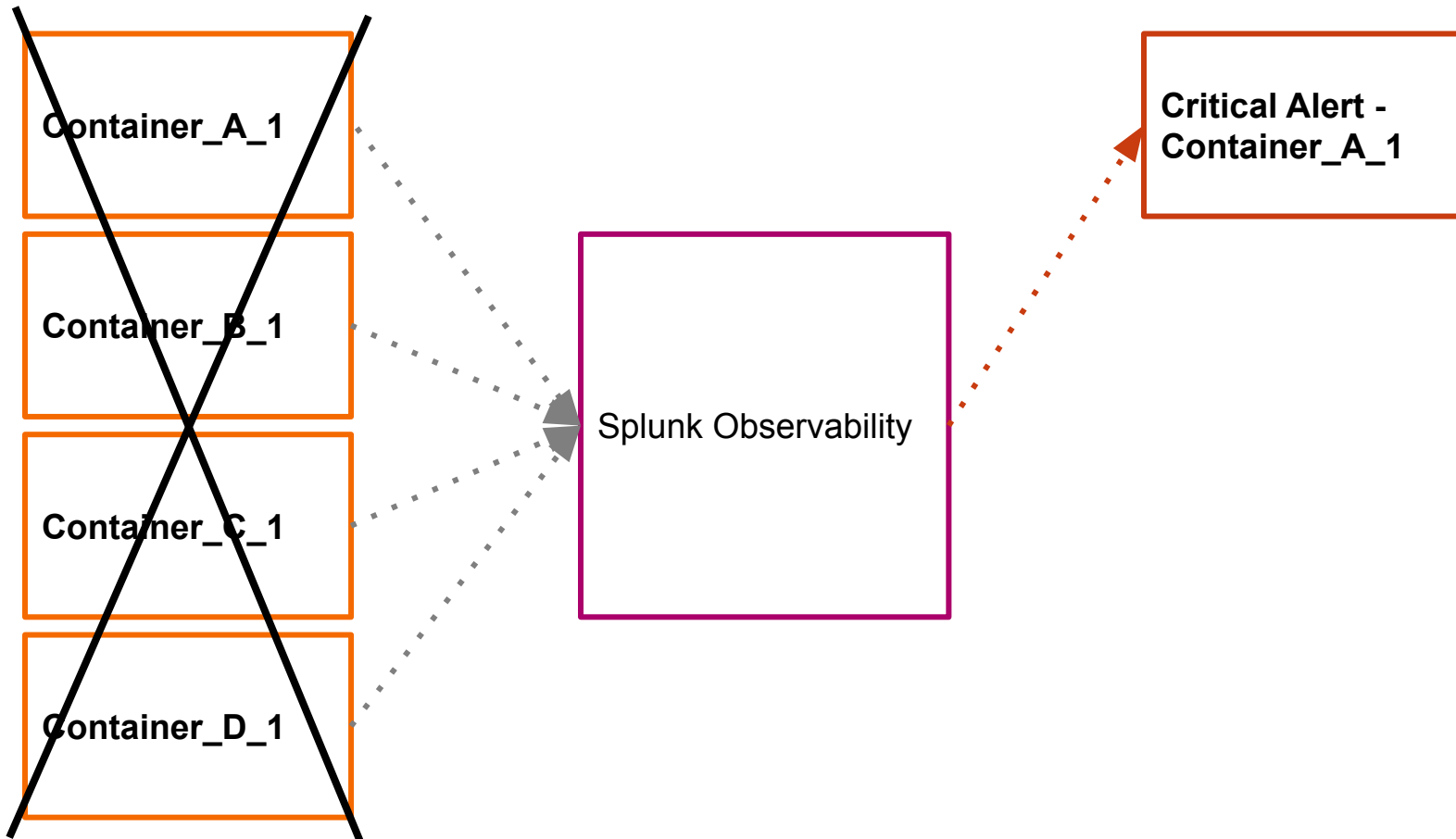
# Use AutoClear to prevent 'Zombie Alerts'



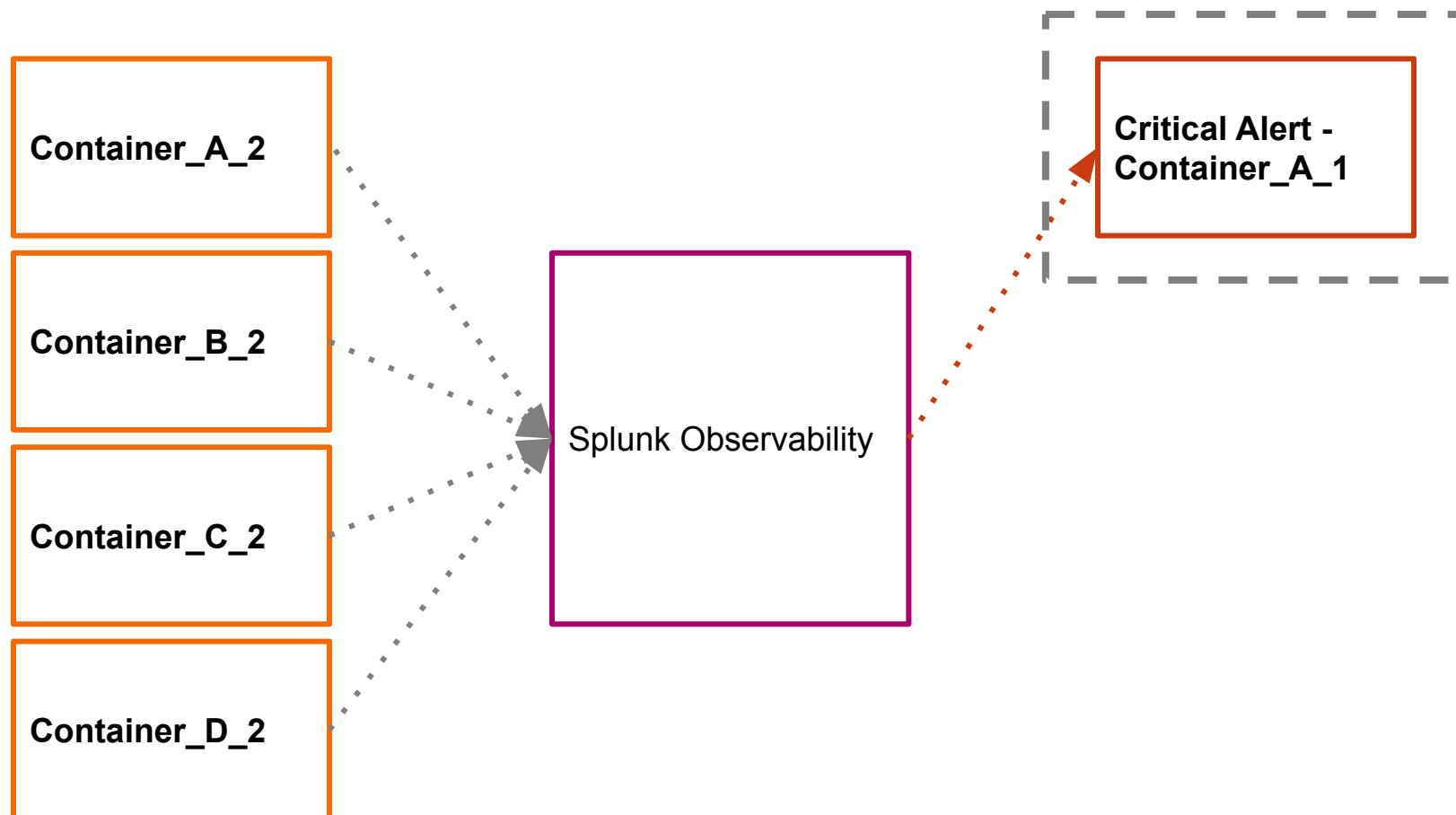
# Use AutoClear to prevent 'Zombie Alerts'



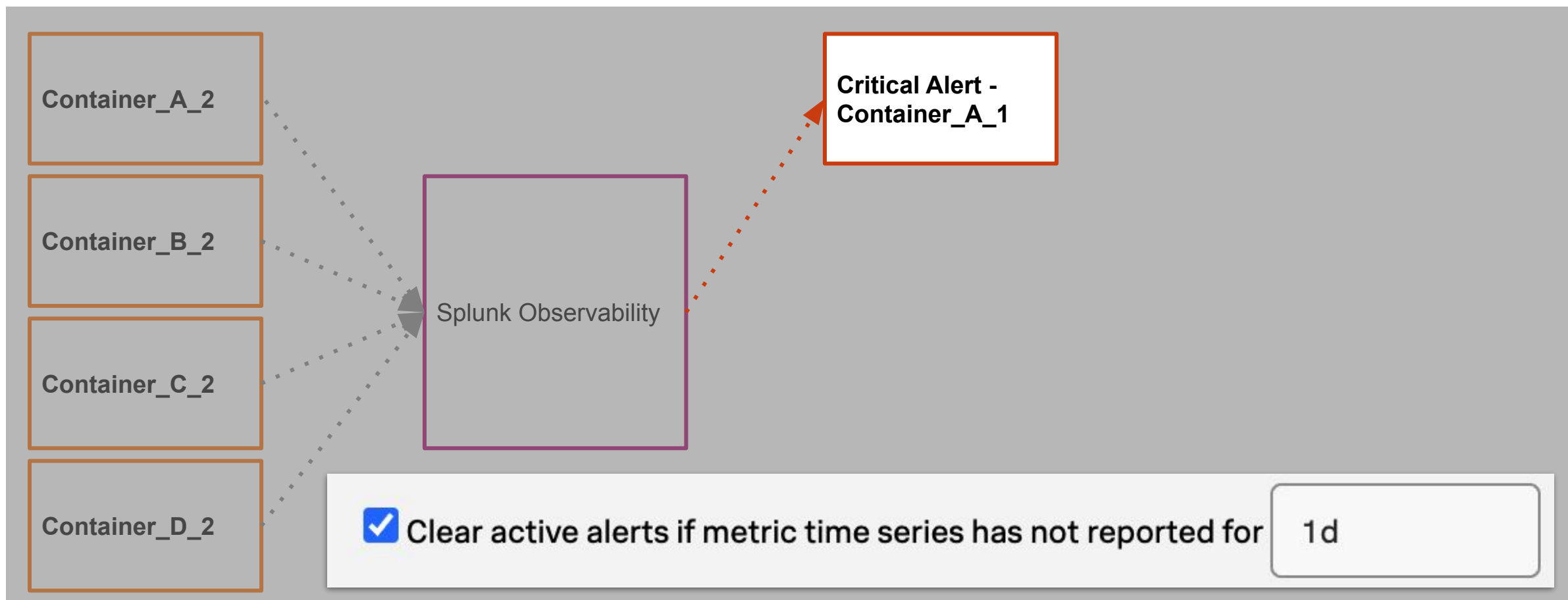
# Use AutoClear to prevent 'Zombie Alerts'



# Use AutoClear to prevent 'Zombie Alerts'



# Use AutoClear to prevent 'Zombie Alerts'



# Advanced Options: Clear Conditions

Advanced option available with  
SignalFlow

Explicitly define desired behavior to  
clear alerts

Example:

Default - Fire an alert when **CPU > 95**  
(Alert will clear when **CPU < 95**)

Desired - Fire an alert when **CPU > 95**  
and **clear the alert when CPU < 85**

# The Path to be a Detector Jedi Master

1

2

3



## Understand the Force

Understand your data  
(Resolution, Periodicity,  
Metadata, Aggregation)

## Use all available tools

Use functions available  
to create the right alerts  
(Rollup, Alert preview,  
trigger sensitivity, off  
conditions)

## Assist and train others

Provide context to the  
alert responder (Tip,  
Runbook, Aggregation,  
Message and Title  
customization)

# Giving the alert responder context

Customize the message you'd like sent with each alert

Severity ● Critical ▾

Runbook ⓘ

Tip ⓘ

Subject

Message Body 

```
{{#if anomalous}}  
  This detector indicates one of our customers is seeing  
  high latency on their hosts at {{timestamp}}. Check the  
  runbook for help troubleshooting.  
  {{dimensions.customer_name}}  
  {{dimensions.datacenter}}  
{{/if}}
```

Available Variables (click or type {{ to insert):

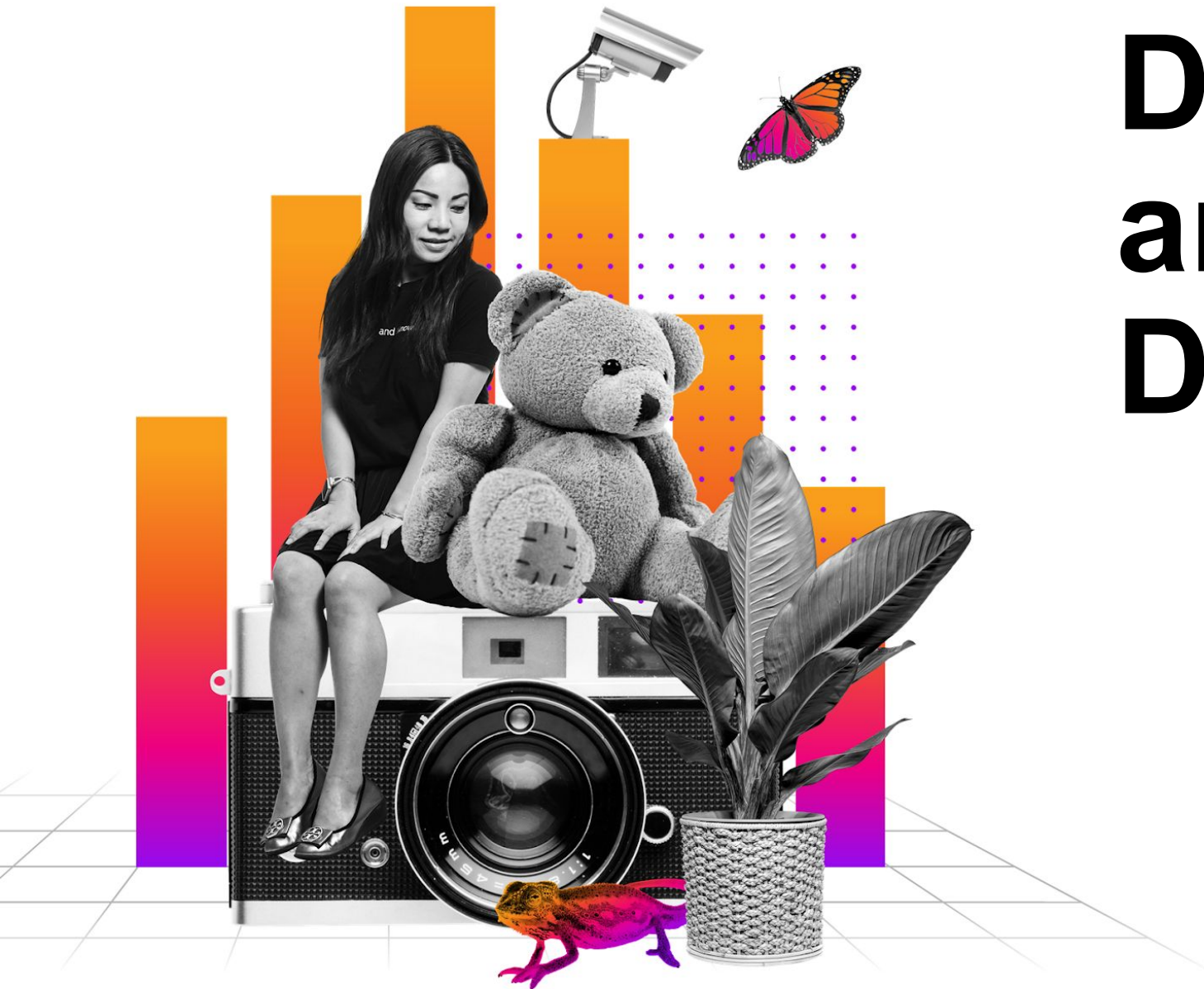
*Detector and Rule Details*

`{{ detectorId }}`  
The ID of this detector (can be used to programmatically reference this detector)

`{{{ detectorName }}}`  
The name of this detector

Cancel Reset To Default Done Editing

# Detectors and Alerts Demo



splunk> .conf22

# Thank You

